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PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHMN #0468 1461727
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 261727Z MAY 06
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5818
INFO RUCNMER/MERCOSUR COLLECTIVE
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 0115
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 4839
RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 0106
RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 2568
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0475

,C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 000468

SIPDIS

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DEPT ALSO FOR WHA/BSC AND PRM/POP (RGEHRING)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/26/2016

TAGS: [PREF](#) [SMIG](#) [CU](#) [UY](#)

SUBJECT: URUGUAY UNENTHUSIASTIC ON RESETTLEMENT OF CUBAN
AND HAITIAN MIGRANTS

REF: STATE 78762

Classified By: Charge D'Affaires James D. Nealon
for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

(C) On May 22 and 24, PolCouns discussed reftel talking points concerning the need to resettle Cuban and Haitian migrants housed at the U.S. Naval Station in Guantanamo with the MFA's acting Director General for Political Affairs Alvaro Gallardo. Gallardo said that while the GOU is generally sympathetic to humanitarian requests, consultations with his MFA colleagues on this subject revealed a uniformly negative reaction to the notion of accepting Guantanamo refugees. He said his colleagues recalled an embarrassing 1999 incident in which a half-dozen Cuban migrants had chained themselves in protest over being sent to Uruguay. He added that his colleagues also asserted that Cuban and Haitian migrants were particularly problematic ""because they invariably sought to eventually emigrate to the U.S."" Gallardo offered to discuss the matter further at a lunch planned for May 30, but was clearly pessemistic about the prospects of settling Guantanamo-based Cubans or Haitians migrants in Uruguay.
Nealon